

Home
in Place

The Exit Generation

FINDINGS FROM THE HOME IN PLACE
YOUTH HOUSING SURVEY

NOVEMBER 2025





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Introduction

Home in Place is a leading community housing provider that delivers social, affordable and specialist disability housing, supported by a commitment to improving housing stability, strengthening communities and advocating for long term solutions. With more than 7,000 properties under management and over 40 years of experience, Home in Place is one of the largest and most established not-for-profit housing providers in the Asia Pacific.

In September 2025, Home in Place commissioned a national survey to to better understand the experiences and views of young Australians aged 18 to 35.

The findings reveal a generation whose life choices are being reshaped by the growing cost of housing. For many, independence is delayed, long term goals feel out of reach, and the path to secure housing is increasingly uncertain.

The results highlight the pressures young people face, the trade offs they are making, and the actions they believe are needed from government and industry.

This report summarises the key insights and provides a factual basis for ongoing discussion about housing affordability and the need for long term solutions.

Methodology

The survey was conducted online throughout September 2025.

Commissioned by: **Home in Place**

Study conducted by: **PureProfile**

Sample size: **1,020 individuals**

Age range: **18–35**

Gender: **520 male, 498 female**

Method: **Online panel survey**

Scope: **Housing stability, affordability, life impacts, attitudes to government action**

Survey type: **Structured questionnaire**

Demographic data such as age, gender, living arrangements and income were collected to contextualise responses and ensure a representative sample across income brackets, life stages and housing situations.

Survey questions

The questionnaire included the following topics:

1. Age
2. Gender
3. Residential postcode
4. Current living arrangement
5. Perceived housing security
6. Proportion of income spent on housing
7. Compromises made in the past twelve months
8. Likelihood of owning a home in their lifetime
9. If unlikely, primary barrier to ownership
10. Willingness to move overseas for affordable housing
11. Whether government is doing enough
12. Importance of governments building social and affordable housing
13. Perceptions of “modern homelessness”
14. Annual income

Respondent profile

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

- 34 percent own their home (with or without a mortgage)
- 11 percent rent alone
- 17 percent rent with a partner
- 9 percent rent in a share house
- 26 percent live with parents or family
- 1 percent live in social or community housing
- 1 percent are in temporary or transitional accommodation

HOUSING SECURITY

- 27 percent feel very secure
- 37 percent somewhat secure
- 18 percent neutral
- 15 percent somewhat insecure
- 4 percent very insecure

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

- 19 percent earning under 40,000
- 26 percent earning 40,000–79,999
- 32 percent earning 80,000–124,999
- 17 percent earning 125,000 and above
- 6 percent preferred not to say



Key findings

RISING INTEREST IN LEAVING AUSTRALIA

More than half of young Australians (53 percent) say they would consider moving overseas for more affordable housing, including 16 percent who definitely would.

LONG TERM HOME OWNERSHIP FEELS UNLIKELY

Only 20 percent believe they are very likely to ever own a home. Half are unsure or pessimistic.

RENTAL STRESS AT UNSUSTAINABLE LEVELS

More than half (53 percent) spend over 30 percent of their income on rent. Twenty seven percent spend more than half their income on rent.

Housing stress is most often used to describe lower-income households that spend more than 30% of their gross income on housing costs. (ABS 2022)

LIFE MILESTONES DELAYED

Twenty one percent have delayed milestones such as study, moving out, or starting a family due to housing costs.

GENDERED IMPACTS

Women are more likely to cut back on food, health care or essentials.
Men are more likely to take on extra work or additional hours.

GOVERNMENT FALLING SHORT

Fifty five percent believe government is not doing enough to support young people into housing.

STRONG SUPPORT FOR NEW SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Nearly 80 percent believe it is important for government to build more social and affordable housing, with 46 percent saying it is very important.



Additional insights from the data

THE FINANCIAL PRESSURE DRIVING SACRIFICE

Housing costs are forcing significant compromises

- 48 percent cut back on lifestyle spending
- 34 percent cut back on essentials such as food, health care or utilities
- 28 percent worked extra jobs or hours
- 21 percent delayed major life decisions
- 19 percent gave up or paused saving for a deposit
- 12 percent moved to a less desirable location
- 9 percent moved back in with family

WHY HOME OWNERSHIP FEELS OUT OF REACH

Barriers that keep young people locked out

- 35.4 percent said they cannot save a deposit due to high rents and living costs
- 20.4 percent said mortgage payments would be unmanageable
- 12.1 percent said lack of borrowing capacity
- 11.2 percent said lack of job security
- 10.3 percent said homes within budget are in areas that do not meet their needs
- 7.7 percent said high existing debt

UNDERSTANDING “MODERN HOMELESSNESS”

Respondents showed a broad awareness of contemporary housing insecurity

- 52.2 percent believe it includes working people unable to afford stable housing
- 51.7 percent said living in cars or temporary shelters
- 51.3 percent said staying with family due to no affordable options
- 43.1 percent said couch surfing
- 41.8 percent said rough sleeping

Implications

The survey paints a clear picture of a generation experiencing economic strain, limited housing options and rising uncertainty about the future.

Without significant intervention in housing supply and affordability, Australia risks losing skilled young people to countries with more achievable pathways to secure housing.

The results also strengthen public support for large scale investment in social and affordable housing and reinforce the urgency of long term policy reform.

The One in Ten Campaign

Home in Place continues to advocate for governments to commit to ensuring that one in every ten new homes built nationally is social or affordable housing.

This target provides a clear and measurable way to increase supply and create more pathways into stable housing. It is practical, achievable and scalable, allowing governments to plan long term while delivering real benefits to people who are struggling to secure a home.

A One in Ten commitment would not only ease pressure now but also help create a more stable and fair housing system for current and future generations.

> [Learn more about the One in Ten Campaign](#)

Going forward

The 2025 Home in Place Youth Housing Survey provides valuable insight into how deeply the housing crisis is shaping the lives of young Australians.

We will continue to use this research to inform our advocacy, share the lived experiences of young people and call for the policy changes necessary to create fair and secure housing pathways.

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